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There is perchlorate contamination in groundwater, surface water, and soils at SSFL. Concentrations in groundwater are up to 670 ppb (~170 times the state's Action Level.) Contamination has been found in 3 of the 4 SSFL Areas (Areas I, III, and IV).

Perchlorate contamination has been found in offsite wells in 3 of 4 directions from the SSFL site – in Simi Valley, Ahmanson, and a well to the east of SSFL. These wells are within a few miles of SSFL. Concentrations range from 1-7 times the Action Level.

"Although no direct link has been drawn between the facility and these sample results, the nearest known perchlorate user is the Santa Susanna Field Laboratory (SSFL) located two to three miles south of the [Simi] Valley." DTSC Fact Sheet, "Perchlorate Identified in Simi Valley Groundwater," Dec 2002.

No other perchlorate users have been identified in the areas around SSFL.

"solid rocket fuel ...is the main source of perchlorate contamination found in groundwater." DTSC Dec 2002 Fact Sheet.

"In general, almost all of the areas [in California] where perchlorate contamination has been detected have had some activity involving rocket engines or fuel." OEHHA Draft Public Health Goal for Perchlorate, Dec 2002

"U.S. EPA (2001) recently tested a variety of fertilizers collected from representative sites around the nation and did not find perchlorate contamination to be a problem." OEHHA Draft Public Health Goal Dec 2002

Perchlorate was used and disposed of at SSFL, which engaged in rocket and reactor testing.